Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance As at June 30, 2020

# Lysander-Canso Broad Corporate Bond Fund





Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance as at June 30, 2020

#### A Note About Forward Looking Statements

This semi-annual Management Report of Fund Performance includes certain statements that are "forward looking statements". All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included in this Management Report of Fund Performance that address activities, events or developments that the Fund expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future, including such things as anticipated financial performance, are forward looking statements. The words "may", "could", "would", "should", "believe", "plan", "anticipate", "expect", "intend", "forecast", "objective" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward looking statements.

These forward looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including the risks described in the simplified prospectus of the Fund, which could cause actual financial performance and expectations to differ materially from the anticipated performance or other expectations expressed. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward looking statements. All opinions contained in forward looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.

The Fund has no specific intention of updating any forward looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by securities legislation. Certain research and information about specific holdings in the Fund, including any opinion, is based upon various sources believed to be reliable, but it cannot be guaranteed to be current, accurate or complete. It is for information only, and is subject to change without notice.

### **About This Report**

This semi-annual Management Report of Fund Performance of Lysander-Canso Broad Corporate Bond Fund (the "Fund") contains financial highlights for the period ended June 30, 2020 but does not contain the complete financial statements of the Fund. This report should be read in conjunction with the semiannual financial statements of the Fund for the period ended June 30, 2020. Lysander Funds Limited (the "Manager") is the manager of the Fund. You can get a copy of the financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll-free 1 877 308 6979, by writing to Lysander Funds Limited, 3080 Yonge St., Suite 3037, Toronto, Ontario, M4N 3N1, by visiting our website at www.lysanderfunds.com or at SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Unitholders may also contact Lysander Funds Limited using one of these methods to obtain a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

#### **Investment objective**

The Fund's objective is to earn income and some capital gains by investing primarily in fixed income securities anywhere in the world.

### **Investment Strategies**

The Fund's portfolio manager, is Canso Investment Counsel Ltd. ("Portfolio Manager" or "Canso"), a company under common control as the Manager. The Fund's portfolio will be invested primarily in fixed income securities, including those of foreign issuers. It also may invest in debt securities convertible into common stock and fixed income securities of governments, government agencies, supranational agencies, companies, trusts and limited partnerships. The Fund will not be leveraged. The Fund may invest up to 100% of its net assets in foreign securities. More details are contained in the Fund's simplified prospectus.

### Risks

The risks of this Fund remain as discussed in the Fund's most recent simplified prospectus.

#### **Results of Operations**

The Fund had positive returns in the period of 6.30% for Series A and 6.60% for Series F.

The net assets of the Fund increased to approximately \$84.8 million from \$61.3 million at the beginning of the period. There were net subscriptions of \$19.3 million during the period.

Other than as discussed in the section below, there were no unusual changes to the components of revenue and expenses of the Fund and there were no unusual events or transactions, economic changes or market conditions that affected performance beyond what would be reasonably expected.

The Fund did not borrow money during the period except for immaterial short-term cash overdrafts.

#### **Recent Developments**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world in ways that were unimaginable at the beginning of the period. Equity and credit markets peaked in mid-February driven by the 2019

Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance as at June 30, 2020

monetary ease from the U.S. Federal Reserve. Markets then crashed in March when the full scope of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic damage it would wreak became apparent. Selling was indiscriminate and the lack of bids caused the Canadian corporate bond market to largely seize up in March. The Canadian equity market was down over 28% in the first quarter and other equity markets were all down well over 20% with small cap stocks generally doing worse. Corporate bonds also experienced negative single digit returns in the first quarter as credit spreads widened. Lower rated BBB and high yield bonds did worse.

The situation in markets dramatically changed on March 23 when the U.S. Federal Reserve announced a range of tools to support households, businesses, and the U.S. economy overall. This included support for critical market functioning through the purchase of U.S. Treasury securities and supporting the flow of credit in general. In addition, the Fed announced it would purchase in the secondary market corporate bonds issued by investment grade U.S. companies and U.S.-listed exchangetraded funds. The Bank of Canada announced similar programs, on a smaller scale.

The huge liquidity assistance provided by central banks to the markets caused a sharp rally in equity markets and considerably narrowed credit spreads so that corporate bonds rallied. By the end of the period, equity markets had regained much of their March losses and corporate bond returns were positive for the entire period. Federal Government bond returns were higher as Government bond yields declined in the period as central banks pledged to keep administered interest rates at very low levels for some time, potentially many years.

The obvious central question going forward is how the effects of the pandemic will play out. It seems clear that the countries that have implemented the most restrictive social distancing and lockdowns have fared the best with the COVID-19 pandemic. It took some time for the March lockdowns, social distancing, and other measures to work and for the economy to start rebounding. Things indeed did start to improve in June. A major problem now is the U.S. cannot seem to muster the political will or societal patience to follow its own public health advice. Things now seem to have opened up too early and too quickly in many areas of the U.S. The U.S. is now showing a huge increase in infections and hospitalizations and many states, like Florida, Texas and California, have had to close down again.

Recent surveys in the U.S. indicate retail shopper traffic to stores showed business activity slowed in the second week of July, in part from renewed virus fears. Amazon announced on July 15 it was extending a work-from-home order for eligible employees from October to January, and Delta Airlines said on July 14 it was cutting back plans to add flights in August and beyond, citing flagging consumer demand. The biggest banks in the U.S. also warned in July that they are setting aside billions of dollars to cover anticipated losses as customers fail to pay their mortgages and other loans in the months to come. This means the U.S. economy will be much slower than its developed world peers in recovering to "normal".

Other regions and countries, like the Europeans and New Zealand, have made steady progress through effective social distancing programs to the point where they have very few cases and the rate of transmission is very much under control. They are now getting their economies back up and running. Canada is also making good progress at recovery, although there is likely to be increased weakness as various Government support programs start to wind down.

The financial markets seem to be looking through the COVID-19 pandemic and discounting an end to social distancing. The fiscal and monetary stimulus has been incredible in scale and rapidity, but equity valuations are high. In credit markets, there is now a split between companies largely unaffected by the pandemic and those that are. It is in the latter group where the best investment opportunities lie, but success will depend on careful and detailed analysis of each individual company's prospects going forward.

The Fund experienced increased trading activity in the first half of 2020 as volatility in the credit markets presented attractive buying opportunities. In both the investment grade and high yield markets, corporate credit spreads widened to decade-high levels as investors began to assess the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns. After being conservatively positioned over the past several years, the Fund began a credit shift that increased its exposure to BBB & lower rated securities at attractive levels. As a result, the high-yield weight within the Fund increased to 22% from 11% at the beginning of the period.

The Fund was an active buyer in both the primary and secondary markets, adding several new positions in the first half of the year. New additions to the Fund included bonds issued by Air Canada, American Airlines, Avis, Boeing, Hertz, Howmet Aerospace and Spirit Aerosystems, among others. In addition, the Fund established a new position in North American oil and gas producers, taking advantage of a sharp sell-off in the price of oil during the months of March and April.

Wide credit spreads helped offset the risk from low government rates, allowing the Fund to buy longer dated bonds while still being compensated for the increased interest rate risk. As a result, duration of the Fund extended to 6.2 years from 4.8 years

Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance as at June 30, 2020

at the start of the period but remains below the benchmark duration of 7.0 years.

There have been no changes to the Manager or Portfolio Manager, or change of control of the Manager, or of the Fund. There have been no actual or planned reorganizations, mergers or similar transactions.

There were no changes to the membership of the Fund's Independent Review Committee ("IRC").

### **Related Party Transactions**

The Manager provides or arranges for the provision of all general management and administrative services required by the Fund in its day-to-day operations, including but not limited to, calculating and reporting the net asset value of the Fund and its series, preparing all offering documents, unitholder recordkeeping and other administrative services. The Manager receives a management fee for these services. The fee is calculated based on a percentage of the net asset value of the Fund as disclosed in the simplified prospectus.

The Fund paid \$266,688 (including HST) in management fees to the Manager for the period ended June 30, 2020 (June 30, 2019 - \$221,165).

The Portfolio Manager is responsible for all investment advice provided to the Fund including providing investment analysis and recommendations, making investment decisions and arranging for the acquisition and disposition of portfolio investments. Fees for providing these services are included in the management fee.

The Manager paid \$131,609 (including HST) to the Portfolio Manager for the period ended June 30, 2020 (June 30, 2019 - \$106,410).

The Manager relied, or may rely on standing instructions from the IRC in respect of securities traded amongst mutual funds, closed end funds, managed accounts or pooled funds managed by the Manager or an affiliate of the Manager. In such cases the Manager is required to comply with the Manager's written policies and procedures presented to the IRC and provide periodic reports to the IRC in accordance with National Instrument 81-107.

Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance as at June 30, 2020

#### **Financial Highlights**

#### Series A\*

Period ended		30-Jun-2020		31-Dec-2019		31-Dec-2018		31-Dec-2017
Net assets per unit <sup>1</sup>								
Net assets, beginning of period	\$	10.53	\$	9.83	\$	9.98	\$	10.00
Operations:								
Total revenue		0.21		0.37		0.32		0.30
Total expenses		(0.08)		(0.15)		(0.15)		(0.17)
Realized gains (losses)		0.2		0.14		(0.07)		(0.05)
Unrealized gains (losses)		0.4		0.82		(0.13)		0.08
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$	0.73	\$	1.18	\$	(0.03)	\$	0.16
Distributions:							-	
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	(0.13)	\$	(0.04)	\$	(0.12)	\$	(0.17)
From capital gains		-		-		-		(0.07)
Total distributions <sup>2 3</sup>	\$	(0.13)	\$	(0.04)	\$	(0.12)	\$	(0.24)
Net assets, end of period <sup>2 3</sup>	\$	11.07	\$	10.53	\$	9.83	\$	9.98
Ratios and supplemental data								
Net asset value <sup>4</sup>	\$	1,917,152	\$	1,364,960	\$	5,117,093	\$	3,289,377
Units outstanding		173,256		129,636		520,770		329,725
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	%	1.49	%	1.48	%	1.54	%	1.65
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption		1.49		1.48		1.54		1.72
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>		46.29		61.81		55.96		41.32
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>		-		-		-		-
Net assets, end of period <sup>2 3</sup>	\$	11.07	\$	10.53	\$	9.83	\$	9.98
							-	

#### Notes

- \* The Fund became a reporting issuer on December 30, 2016 and accordingly prior period numbers are not available.
- 1 The information is derived from the Fund's unaudited semi-annual and/or audited annual financial statements. All per unit figures presented are referenced to net assets determined in accordance to IFRS.
- 2 Net assets and distributions are based on the actual numbers of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per unit.
- 3 Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units, or both.
- 4 This information is provided at the end of the period shown.
- 5 The management expense ratio is based on the total expenses of the period ended and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset values during the period.
- 6 The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio manager manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund. The portfolio turnover rate is calculated based on the lesser of purchases or sales of securities divided by the weighted average market value of portfolio securities, excluding short term securities.
- 7 The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance as at June 30, 2020

#### Series F\*

Period ended	3	0-Jun-2020	3	1-Dec-2019	31-Dec-2018	31-Dec-2017
Net assets per unit <sup>1</sup>						
Net assets, beginning of period	\$	10.33	\$	9.81	\$ 10.02	\$ 10.00
Operations:						
Total revenue		0.20		0.38	0.32	0.28
Total expenses		(0.05)		(0.1)	(0.10)	(0.11)
Realized gains (losses)		0.20		0.16	(0.07)	-
Unrealized gains (losses)		0.37		0.35	(0.15)	(0.08)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$	0.72	\$	0.79	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.09
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	\$	(0.16)	\$	(0.29)	\$ (0.24)	\$ (0.16)
From capital gains		-		-	-	(0.06)
Total distributions <sup>2 3</sup>	\$	(0.16)	\$	(0.29)	\$ (0.24)	\$ (0.22)
Net assets, end of period <sup>2 3</sup>	\$	10.86	\$	10.33	\$ 9.81	\$ 10.02

Ratios and supplemental data								
Net asset value <sup>4</sup>	\$	82,932,963	\$	59,986,724	\$	48,045,589	\$	21,347,746
Units outstanding		7,638,259		5,805,429		4,897,805		2,131,540
Management expense ratio <sup>5</sup>	%	0.92	%	0.93	%	0.94	%	1.09
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption		0.92		0.93		0.94		1.15
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>6</sup>		46.29		61.81		55.96		41.32
Trading expense ratio <sup>7</sup>		-		-		-		-
Net assets, end of period <sup>2 3</sup>	\$	10.86	\$	10.33	\$	9.81	\$	10.02

#### Notes

- \* The Fund became a reporting issuer on December 30, 2016 and accordingly prior period numbers are not available.
- 1 The information is derived from the Fund's unaudited semi-annual and/or audited annual financial statements. All per unit figures presented are referenced to net assets determined in accordance to IFRS.
- 2 Net assets and distributions are based on the actual numbers of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per unit.
- 3 Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units, or both.
- 4 This information is provided at the end of the period shown.
- 5 The management expense ratio is based on the total expenses of the period ended and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset values during the period.
- 6 The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio manager manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund. The portfolio turnover rate is calculated based on the lesser of purchases or sales of securities divided by the weighted average market value of portfolio securities, excluding short term securities.
- 7 The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance as at June 30, 2020

#### **Management Fees**

The Manager provides or arranges the provision of all general management and administrative services required by the Fund, and as described in the section "Related Party Transactions" above.

In consideration for such services, the Manager receives a management fee, based on the net asset value of each Series, calculated daily and payable monthly. The Fund pays a management fee of 1.20% per annum for Series A units and 0.70% per annum for Series F units.

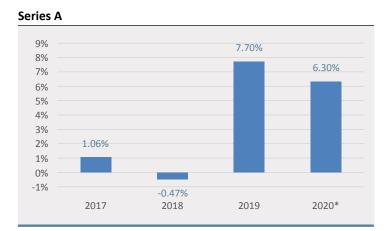
Service fees or trailing commissions of a maximum of 0.50% per annum are paid on Series A units to dealers. This comprises approximately 42% of the management fee of Series A units.

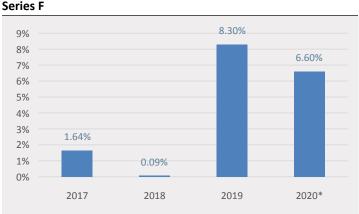
### **Past Performance**

The Fund became a reporting issuer on December 30, 2016. Accordingly, returns are shown for the relevant years/period as indicated below.

The performance information assumes that any distributions are reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the series will perform in the future.

#### Year-by-Year Returns





Semi-Annual Management Report of Fund Performance as at June 30, 2020

#### Summary of Investment Portfolio

		% of NAV	
Top 25 Issuers			Asset Mix
Bank of Nova Scotia	%	5.7	Canadian Fixed Income
Bank of Montreal		5.4	Cash and Cash Equivalents
TransCanada Pipelines		4.4	Foreign Fixed Income
407 International Inc.		4.1	Other Assets less Liabilities
Cash and Cash Equivalents		4.0	Total
Apple Inc.		4.0	Sector
Boeing Co.		3.7	Cash and Cash Equivalents
Shaw Communications Inc		3.3	Communication Services
AT&T Inc.		3.1	Consumer Discretionary
Maxar Technologies Inc.		2.6	Consumer Staples
Toronto Dominion Bank		2.4	Energy
Walt Disney Co.		2.3	Federal
GE Capital Canada		2.3	Financials
Air Canada		2.3	Industrials
Ford Credit Canada Ltd.		2.2	Information Technology
Royal Bank of Canada		2.2	Infrastructure
Arrow Lakes Power		2.1	Other Assets less Liabilities
Suncor Energy Inc.		2.0	Provincial
Sobeys Inc.		2.0	Real Estate
Nav Canada		1.9	Utilities
GE Capital Corp Ltd		1.8	Total
Unicredit SPA		1.8	
Pembina Pipeline Corp.		1.7	
Spirit Aerosystems Inc.		1.7	
Kraft Heinz Co.		1.6	
Total	%	70.6	

% of NAV

61.8 4.0 33.7 0.5 **100.0** 

> 4.0 13.7 0.2 5.2 17.2 0.3 27.9 14.5 6.3 0.5 0.7 0.4 1.6

100.0

%

%

%

%



3080 Yonge Street, Suite 3037 Toronto, ON M4N 3N1 www.lysanderfunds.com

 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{B}}$  Lysander Funds is a registered trademark of Lysander Funds Limited